

701—230.2 (423) Carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used in processing. An expanded definition of “processing” is allowed to manufacturers of food products for human consumption using carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services. For the purposes of this rule, the rental or leasing of tangible personal property is treated as the furnishing of a taxable service and not as the sale of tangible personal property.

230.2(1) “Manufacturer” characterized. A manufacturer is a person or entity different from a merchant, dealer, or retailer. See *Commonwealth v. Thackara Mfg. Co.*, 27 A. 13 (Pa. 1893). In order for a business to be a manufacturer, the principal business of that business must be manufacturing. See *Associated General Contractors v. State Tax Commission*, 123 N.W.2d 922 (Iowa 1963). Another distinction is that a merchant or retailer sells in order to earn a profit and a manufacturer sells to take profits already earned from prior activity. See *State v. Coastal Petrol Inc.*, 198 So. 610 (Ala. 1940). A person primarily engaged in selling tangible personal property in order to earn a profit and only incidentally engaged in creating products suitable for use from raw materials is not a manufacturer. A retail grocery store, incidentally and not primarily engaged in manufacturing activities such as meat cutting or production and packaging of baked goods, is not a “manufacturer of food products for human consumption” and is not entitled to claim the special processing exemption allowed to those manufacturers. Retail food stores, restaurants, and other persons incidentally engaged in food manufacturing activities can, however, continue to claim on their incidental processing activities the processing exemption allowed to persons who are not manufacturers of food products for human consumption. See rule 701—230.3(423).

230.2(2) The following activities constitute processing when performed by a manufacturer to create food products for human consumption. Any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable services primarily used in the performance of these activities is exempt from tax.

a. Treatment of material that changes its form, context, or condition in order to produce a marketable food product for human consumption. “Special treatment” of the material to change its form, context, or condition is not necessary to lawfully claim the exemption. Examples of “treatment” which would not be “special” are the following: the washing, sorting and grading of fruits or vegetables; the washing, sorting, and grading of eggs; and the mixing or agitation of liquids. By way of contrast, sterilization would be “special treatment.”

b. Maintenance of the quality or integrity of the food product and the maintenance or the changing of temperature levels necessary to avoid spoilage or to hold the food in marketable condition. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service used in freezers, heaters, coolers, refrigerators, or evaporators used in cooling or heating which holds the food product at a temperature necessary to maintain quality or integrity or to avoid spoilage of the food or to hold the food product in marketable condition is exempt from tax. It is not necessary that the taxable service be used to raise or lower the temperature of the food. Also, processing of food products for human consumption does not cease when the food product is in marketable form. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used to maintain or to change a temperature necessary to keep the product marketable is exempt from tax.

c. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service primarily used in the maintenance of environmental conditions necessary for the safe or efficient use of machinery or material used to produce the food product is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used to air-condition a room in which meat is stored is exempt from tax if the purpose of the air conditioning is to maintain the meat in a condition in which it is easy to slice rather than for the comfort of the employees who work in the room.

d. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service primarily used in sanitation and quality control activities is exempt from tax. Nonexclusive examples exempt from tax include taxable services used in pH meters, microbiology counters and incubators used to test the purity or sanitary nature of a food product. For example, electricity used in egg-candling lights would be exempt from tax. Also, electricity, steam, or any taxable service used to power equipment which cleans and sterilizes food production equipment would be exempt from tax. Electricity used to

power refrigerators used to store food samples for testing would be exempt from tax. Finally, electricity used to power “bug lights” or other insect-killing equipment used in areas where food products are manufactured or stored would be exempt from tax.

e. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used in the formation of packaging for marketable food products for human consumption is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used in plastic bottle-forming machines by a food manufacturer is exempt from tax if the plastic bottles will be used to hold a marketable food product, such as milk. Any electricity, steam, or other taxable service used in the heating, compounding, liquefying and forming of plastic pellets into these plastic bottles is exempt.

f. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used in placement of the food product into shipping containers is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used by a food manufacturer to place food products into packing cases, pallets, crates, shipping cases, or other similar receptacles is exempt.

g. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used to move material which will become a marketable food product or used to move the marketable food product itself until shipment from the building of manufacture is exempt from tax. This includes, but is not limited to, taxable services used in pumps, conveyors, forklifts, and freight elevators moving the material or food product and taxable services used in door openers which open doors for forklifts or other devices moving the material or product. Any loading dock which is attached to a building of manufacture is a part of that building. Any electricity, steam, or taxable service used to move any food products to a loading dock is exempt from tax. If a food product is carried outside its building of manufacture by any conveyor belt system, electricity used by any portion of the system located outside the building is taxable.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code Supplement subsection 423.3(49).